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May 28, 1969

The Hon. William P. Rogers
Secretary of State
State Department
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In the course of representing certain members of the ship's company of the U.S.S. Liberty, for whose injuries compensation of damages was recently made by the Government of Israel, it has been necessary for me to spend a great deal of time in working with three members of the Legal Adviser's Office:

Ernest L. Kerley
Fabian A. Kwiatek
Rudolph D. Henderson, Jr.

I should like you to know my feeling that these gentlemen have performed their duties with the utmost professional competence, scrupulous fairness and punctilious courtesy.

Particular comment should be made of Mr. Kerley. In my many years of practice in Washington, I have yet to encounter a legal officer in government service of his outstanding ability. In determining the merits of the cases of the individual claimants, he brought to bear superior analytic skill and nicety of judgment in the determination of significant factors. His conscientiousness and care in the handling of each individual case, while applied with the utmost objectivity, extended to a fair evaluation of the human factors of each situation which must be taken into account in any judgment assessing damages for personal injuries. His broad comprehension of the law, as it is applied in the various States, was of the nature which we would like to find more often in our judiciary. Finally, although his comments were often such as necessitated additional long hours of work by me and my colleagues, I found working with him a pleasurable experience.

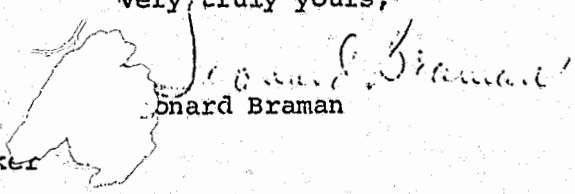
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As a result, then, of the very numerous working sessions I have had with these gentlemen over the past ten months, I have the greatest respect and admiration for the Office of the Legal Adviser of the Department of State. I am both proud and gratified that the interests of citizens of the United States enjoy its representation.

Very truly yours,


Leonard Braman

cc Hon. Leonard C. Meeker
Mr. E. L. Kerley
Mr. F. A. Kwiatek
Mr. R. D. Henderson, Jr.

LB/pdm

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